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Letter to Mary Landrieu, January 22, 2008

Kenneth Hirsh

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Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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January 22, 2008

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
724 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

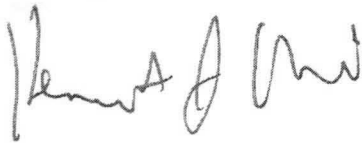
On behalf of the Southeastern Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL), which includes Louisiana's law libraries, I am writing to ask you to co-sponsor the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007" (S. 886) which would re-establish procedures to ensure the timely release of presidential records that Congress intended with the Presidential Records Act of 1978.

SEAALL is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Florida with the purposes of promoting law librarianship and developing and increasing the usefulness of law libraries, particularly those in the Southeastern area of the United States. SEAALL is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

The "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007" (H.R. 1255; S. 886) would reverse President Bush's Executive Order 13233 by establishing a deadline for the review of records, limiting the authority of former presidents to withhold records, requiring the president to make privilege claims personally, and eliminating the ability for Vice Presidents to assert executive privilege claims over vice presidential records. The Act addresses issues central to AALL's core values—specifically, our commitment to transparency in government, openness and accountability—which are crucial for democracy. In this case, presidential records facilitate important historical research, foster government accountability by the public, and provide access to important textual records necessary for a stable and civil society.

The bill has broad bipartisan support in the Senate, and it cleared the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee by voice vote earlier this year. On behalf of our members, we ask you to please considering co-sponsoring S. 886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth J. Hirsh', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth J. Hirsh
President

CC:

District Office
Hale Boggs Federal Building, Room 1005
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130